

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the Following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PLANT CLOSINGS AND AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, a chilling announcement was received by 500 employees of the C.F. Hathaway Co. in Waterville, ME. When the Warnaco Co., which is a national holding company, which owns the C.F. Hathaway Co., in Waterville, made the following announcement, that following a comprehensive evaluation of their Hathaway men's dress shirt business, the Warnaco Co. had decided to cease manufacturing and marketing this brand. This decision will ultimately result in the sale of the business or the cessation of operations at those facilities where Hathaway shirts are produced, including the plant in Waterville, ME.

Mr. Richard Kelso, president of the Mid-State Economic Development Corp., in central Maine, said of the news that this was going to be a devastating blow because of the large number of workers involved and that unemployment in the mid-Maine area would soar from 7 or 8 percent, currently a full point above the Maine State average, to upward of 10 percent.

This is a significant and devastating blow to the Waterville, ME economy. While the Warnaco Co., has indicated that it will cease manufacturing at the facility, they have, pursuant to State law, given the 500 employees 60 days notice of their intention to either terminate operations or, hopefully, to find a buyer for their operations. The Governor of our State, Governor King, has spoken to the company and has conveyed to the company his great concern over the welfare of those 500 workers and that he, on behalf of the State and the congressional delegation, was going to extend every effort to assist the Warnaco Co., in attempting to find a buyer. He and we and other Members of the delegation have all urged the company to continue their operations, hopefully until such time as we can find a buyer for the company.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous economic loss or potentially a tremendous economic loss to central Maine. The C.F. Hathaway Co. is currently the oldest domestic shirt manufacturing company in the United States. It was founded in 1837, almost 160 years ago. The 500 workers today work at wages averaging \$7 to \$9 an hour. We all hear a lot of talk about the productivity of the American worker, and we are all very gravely concerned about the shift

towards overseas and offshore production.

It is significant that just in the last 2 years, as the workers of this company became aware of the fact that Warnaco was concerned about its production costs, that they have managed to increase weekly output from just over 2,000 dozen shirts a week to more than 3,000 dozen shirts a week, an increase of over 40 percent. Just as importantly, the labor costs have decreased from about \$125 a dozen shirts to \$60 a dozen shirts.

What is even more startling to the people in my State and in my district is the fact that the Warnaco Co. also at the same time reported over \$30 million in operating income on revenues of \$206 million or net income of about \$15 million after additional expenses.

This is the contrast that we face: American workers losing good American jobs, paying local taxes, supporting State and Federal Government, and yet confronted with the loss of their jobs even as the company that owns their production facility is making millions of dollars.

I would suggest that there is an issue here that we in this Chamber should be paying attention to. I hope to be investigating it further.

We need to take a very close look at the cost of doing business in this country and specifically evaluate the fact that 500 workers could be losing their jobs at the very same time that a company could be earning millions of dollars and in fact watching the stock price of the company rise even as they are losing their jobs.

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I think this is a serious issue. I have called on the Warnaco Co. to extend every consideration to the State and to the Governor as he attempts to lead us in attempting to find a purchaser for the company, and I encourage and hope that they will extend that courtesy. The 500 workers who demonstrated a tradition of loyalty going back 160 years I hope are entitled to the same expressions of loyalty and courtesy from the company for which they worked and I think we can ask for no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MEEHAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. PRYCE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HUD HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. DOYLE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, since we just completed consideration of the U.S. Housing Act, I believe it is appropriate that I rise this evening to discuss a public housing issue that is now being played out in western Pennsylvania.

In the suburban communities of Pittsburgh, which I represent in Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, county housing authority, county government, and lawyers representing plaintiffs from a 1988 lawsuit are in the process of implementing a plan to provide public housing for those plaintiffs. And, while I am sure that lawyers could argue the merits of this case for days on end, my dispute is with the manner in which the implementation is being conducted.

In the last year, when decisions were made to purchase single-family houses in seven municipalities within two school districts, the elected officials and residents of these municipalities were not informed and not consulted. The first word of this plan to purchase single-family houses in six communities out of 100 eligible communities in Allegheny County, was this undated form letter notifying them that houses in their communities would be purchased for section 8 housing.

I became involved when the mayors of these affected communities wondered why they had not been brought into the decisionmaking process until it was too late, and then only for appearances. They were at a loss for what could be done about HUD forcing its will on their citizens. I suggested that they form an intermunicipal working group and offer an alternative plan to the proposal by the parties of the consent decree.

There are three basic problems with the path HUD is taking in my district: The lack of community notification and participation, the concentrated loss of tax revenues to the municipalities and school districts, and the extravagant use of taxpayer funds to provide public housing.

First, HUD has shown little interest in communicating with local officials